

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
F76995
Rs

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHEEP HERDERS AND CAMP TENDERS ON THE NATIONAL FORESTS

The resources of the national forests are timber, water, forage, wild life, recreation, and scenery. Conservation is not withholding these resources from use, but using each resource wisely in such a way that it may continue to be used for all time



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

HERDERS AND CAMP TENDERS

The grazing of livestock on the national forests is a privilege and not a right. The continued use of the forests for grazing is dependent upon compliance by stock owners with certain necessary rules and regulations. You represent your employer a large part of the time when his sheep are on the forests, and it is very necessary that you understand what is required of him. If you have such an understanding it will be easier for you to make good on your job—the sheep will be better cared for, the forest officers will be better satisfied, and the forest ranges will not be injured. The following brief instructions have been prepared for guidance and to promote a feeling of good fellowship for the benefit of all concerned.

PURPOSES OF THE FOREST SERVICE

1. To provide range for as many stock as possible, but
2. To have them all in the best possible condition when they come off of the range.
3. And to leave the range in such a shape that we can continue to do this year after year.

If these purposes can be accomplished, and they can be with your help, everyone will benefit, all the range will be properly and carefully used. There will be no occasion for trespass cases against you or your employer, there will be no fires caused by your carelessness. In the event of difficulties arising you will know what to do and the forest officers and your employer will be able to depend upon you.

USE OF RANGE

The Forest Service endeavors to provide sufficient range for each band of sheep. Naturally the kind and quality of feed varies on different parts of the allotment, some of the range may be hard to herd, perhaps some of it is not well watered. You should endeavor to go over all the allotment as soon as possible and then plan your herding so as to make the best use of all the range—saving as far as you can the very best of it until shortly before the sheep are to be taken out so that you can bring the sheep out in the best possible condition.

When coming in or going out over the trails try to keep the sheep moving along steadily. Don't trespass off the sides of the trail because you are getting on some other man's range that has been allotted by the service. Try to avoid damage to roads and trails as such damage must be repaired by the parties causing it. Take a personal interest in the range, the sheep, the forest—it is all worth while. Such a personal interest is appreciated by everyone and is in your favor.

BEDDING SHEEP AND GOATS

The bed ground should be changed every day unless some unusual natural condition will not allow the change to be made. Under no condition should the same bed ground be occupied for more than three nights. This means that the bedding-out system of herding must be followed. Any exception to this rule will be made by the forest ranger. The trailing of sheep into and out from a permanent bed ground will not be allowed.

The bedding ground must be 300 yards if possible from a running stream.

The principal points in the bedding-out and open-herding systems of handling sheep are:

1. Herding in the lead of the sheep instead of in the rear, and training them to spread out and graze quietly.

2. Grazing rather than driving or trailing to and from water.

3. Bedding down the sheep on fresh bed grounds where night overtakes them, with proper selection of bed grounds so the sheep will be contented.

4. Camping close to the sheep each night either by using a burro to pack the herder's bed and food and allowing the burro to graze with his pack on during the time the sheep are feeding; or packing the herder's outfit with saddle horse or other means from a central camp; or having the camp tender keep the central camp moved to the vicinity of the sheep.

5. Using dogs as little as possible after the sheep are properly trained, and keeping them principally to protect the flock from predatory animals.

SALT TROUGHS

In salting your sheep the salt should be placed on rocky ground well removed from water. Do not salt your sheep on meadow areas.

DISPOSITION OF CARCASSES

The carcasses of all animals which die on the national forest from contagious or infectious diseases must be burned at once, and the carcasses of all animals which die in the close vicinity of water or close to trails or other places where they will be a nuisance must be removed immediately, and buried or burned. Authority for such use of fire must be secured from the forest officer and every precaution taken to see that the fire does not escape and cause a forest fire.

Endeavor to keep your camps clean and sanitary. Some sheep camps are models of neatness and cleanliness and all of them can be. You will be more comfortable and satisfied by a little extra effort in this respect.

PREDATORY ANIMALS

It is desired that the herder and packer keep records of all predatory animals killed by them on the national forest. This record should be kept and returned to a forest officer at the end of the grazing season on the forest. They should remember that where bear are protected by the State laws that only

such bear may be killed as are actually killing or attempting to kill the stock in their charge.

PROTECTION OF GAME, FISH, AND BIRDS

It is one of the duties of forest officers to help protect the game, fish and birds on the national forest and to help enforce the national and State fish and game laws. It is expected of herders and packers that they will not only comply with the laws themselves, but assist the forest and State officers in their enforcement.

By so doing we can overcome the belief that exists on the part of some people that all herders and camp-tenders violate the game laws. These same people want the Forest Service to restrict or prevent sheep grazing on the forest—entirely forgetting the importance of producing wool and mutton.

CONCERNING FIRES

The first and most important duty of every forest officer is to protect the forest from fires. Every user of the forest is obligated to assist in doing so. You can be of assistance in many ways without neglecting your sheep. Your employer understands his responsibility in this respect and will appreciate your efforts. The last great stand of timber in the United States is here in the West and every one of us who is a patriotic American citizen should do his best to protect our forests from fire.

CAMP FIRES

Camp fires should not be built against logs, stumps, or trees. The ground around the fire should be cleared of all stuff that will burn to at least a distance of 6 feet on all sides. The fire itself should be built in a hole dug at least 10 inches into the mineral soil. The camp fire must be completely put out whenever the camp is moved or left alone, even for a short time. A shovel and axe should be in every sheep camp.

SMUDGE FIRES

Smudge fires should not be made unless absolutely necessary and never in places that are not fully

cleared for a distance of 50 feet all around. A smudge fire must never be made at or near the roots of a tree, in or near a stump or snag, and must be close to and within plain sight of camp. It must not be any larger, or be allowed to spread over a larger space than absolutely necessary. Such fires when not serving the purpose for which they were made, and when the camp is abandoned, must be immediately and completely extinguished. Under no circumstances will the use of smudge fires be allowed on driveways.

OTHER FIRES

Burning or smoking out yellow-jackets' nests or any other unnecessary use of fire is not permitted.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A FOREST FIRE

Whenever a sheepman discovers an unwarranted fire burning, whether started by his own carelessness or in some other way, he should put it out if he can. If he can not put it out, he should try to put it under temporary control. After it is temporarily controlled, or if it is too big to do anything with, he should report it to a forest officer as quickly as possible, even when to do so a special trip to town or the nearest telephone or forest station is necessary. He must then place himself at the disposal of the forest officer for such other work in connection with the fire as the officer may request, such as packing supplies, fighting the fire, or patrolling the fire line.

He should keep a record of all fires he puts out by himself and be sure and tell the forest ranger of them when he sees him.

SOMETHING ABOUT TRESPASS

In order to protect the forest and the stockmen using the forest ranges from injury by the fellow who doesn't care or who is looking for trouble certain regulations and laws have been established. In case of trespass the herder and packer are liable to criminal prosecution. The owner is also liable for that and for damages to the range also.

The following acts constitute trespass:

(A) The grazing upon or driving across any national forest of any livestock without permit, except such stock as are specifically exempted from permit by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, or the grazing upon or driving across any national forest of any livestock in violation of the terms of a permit.

(B) The grazing of stock upon national land within an area closed to the grazing of that class of stock.

(C) The grazing of stock by a permittee upon an area withdrawn from use for grazing purposes to protect it from damage by reason of the improper handling of the stock, after the receipt of notice from an authorized forest officer of such withdrawal and of the amendment of the grazing permit.

(D) Allowing stock not exempt from permit to drift and graze upon a national forest without permit.

(E) Violation of any of the terms of a grazing or crossing permit.

(F) Refusal to remove stock upon instructions from an authorized forest officer when an injury is being done to the national forest by reason of improper handling of the stock.

When upon the forest the herder and packer must understand that should the instructions of their employer and the forest officer disagree as to the manner in which the range should be used they must follow the instructions of the officer.

GENERAL CONDUCT

The herder who fails to use good feed because it is hard to get, who overgrazes some areas and undergrazes others, is destroying and defeating the purpose for which the national forests were created and in the long run harming himself.

Men who will work with the forest officers, who will do their share to make the forests productive, who will build trails and guard against fires, serve best their employers and are the men who are wanted and who are welcomed. To such men will be issued cards testifying to their usefulness and acceptability.

The range you will use is located in the-----
National Forest-----district.

The district ranger-----
is located at-----

The sheep will be counted at-----

Please notify ranger-----
days in advance of arrival with your sheep and how
the sheep will be handled for counting.

Forest Supervisor.

FIRE-PREVENTION RULES

It is not difficult for anyone to be careful with fire while in wooded areas. Here are simple rules which if observed will go far toward reducing the appalling number of man-caused forest fires reported every year.

1. *Matches*.—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.

2. *Tobacco*.—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.

3. *Making camp*.—Before building a fire scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.

4. *Breaking camp*.—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.

5. *Brush burning*.—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.

6. *How to put out a camp fire*.—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water stir in dirt and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure that last spark is dead.

If you know and follow these rules, won't you induce others to do likewise?